WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An oligonucleotide having a sequence, said sequence comprising at least 26 contiguous nucleotides contained within SEQ ID NO:7 or the complement thereof, said oligonucleotide having a length of up to 100 nucleotides.

2. The oligonucleotide of Claim 1, wherein the sequence of said oligonucleotide comprises any one of SEQ ID NO:1 or the complement thereof, SEQ ID NO:2 or the complement thereof, SEQ ID NO:3 or the complement thereof, SEQ ID NO:4 or the complement thereof, SEQ ID NO:5 or the complement thereof, and SEQ ID NO:6 or the complement thereof.

3. The oligonucleotide of Claim 2, wherein the length of said oligonucleotide is up to 60 nucleotides.

4. The oligonucleotide of Claim 3, wherein said oligonucleotide comprises DNA.

5. The oligonucleotide of Claim 3, wherein said oligonucleotide comprises at least one nucleotide analog.

6. The oligonucleotide of Claim 5, wherein said at least one nucleotide analog comprises a methoxy group at the 2' position of a ribose moiety.

7. The oligonucleotide of Claim 3, wherein the sequence of said oligonucleotide consists of any one of SEQ ID NO:1 or the complement thereof, SEQ ID NO:2 or the complement thereof, SEQ ID NO:3 or the complement thereof, SEQ ID NO:4 or the complement thereof, SEQ ID NO:5 or the complement thereof, and SEQ ID NO:6 or the complement thereof.

8. The oligonucleotide of Claim 7, further comprising a detectable label.

9. The oligonucleotide of Claim 7, wherein said sequence consists of SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:5.

10. The oligonucleotide of Claim 9, wherein said oligonucleotide further comprises a detectable label.

11. The oligonucleotide of Claim 10, wherein the detectable label is a chemiluminescent label.

12. The oligonucleotide of Claim 11, wherein the chemiluminescent label is an acridinium ester.

13. A composition for detecting the nucleic acids of a yeast that is any of *C. albicans*, *C. tropicalis, C. dubliniensis, C. viswanathii* and *C. parapsilosis*, said composition comprising an oligonucleotide probe having a sequence, said sequence comprising the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or the complement thereof, said oligonucleotide probe having a length of up to 100 nucleotide bases.

14. The composition of Claim 13, wherein the length of said oligonucleotide probe is up to 60 nucleotides.

15. The composition of Claim 13, wherein said oligonucleotide probe comprises DNA.

16. The composition of Claim 13, wherein the sequence of said oligonucleotide probe consists of SEQ ID NO:1.

17. The composition of Claim 14, wherein said oligonucleotide probe further comprises a detectable label.

18. The composition of Claim 16, wherein said oligonucleotide probe further comprises a detectable label.

19. The composition of Claim 17, wherein the detectable label is a chemiluminescent label or a radiolabel.

20. The composition of Claim 18, wherein the detectable label is a chemiluminescent label or a radiolabel.

21. The composition of Claim 20, wherein the detectable label is a chemiluminescent label, and wherein the chemiluminescent label is an acridinium ester.

22. The composition of Claim 18, further comprising at least one helper oligonucleotide.

23. The composition of Claim 22, wherein said at least one helper oligonucleotide includes at least one nucleotide analog.

24. The composition of Claim 23, wherein said at least one nucleotide analog comprises a ribose moiety having a methoxy group disposed at the 2' position.

25. The composition of Claim 22, wherein said at least one helper oligonucleotide has a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:3 and SEQ ID NO:4.

26. A method of determining whether an organism in the genus *Candida* is present in a test sample, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) providing to said test sample a probe composition comprising an oligonucleotide probe having a sequence, said sequence comprising SEQ ID NO:1, said oligonucleotide probe having a length of up to 100 nucleotide bases;

(b) hybridizing under a high stringency condition any nucleic acid that may be present in the test sample with said probe composition to form a probe:target duplex; and

(c) detecting said probe:target duplex, whereby it is determined that an organism that is any of *C. albicans*, *C. tropicalis, C. dubliniensis, C. viswanathii* and *C. parapsilosis* is present in the test sample.

27. The method of Claim 26, wherein the sequence of said oligonucleotide probe in step (a) consists of SEQ ID NO:1.

28. The method of Claim 27, wherein said test sample may comprise yeast cells, and wherein before step (a) there is a step for releasing nucleic acid from any yeast cells that may be present in said test sample.

29. The method of Claim 26, wherein said test sample is a lysate.

30. The method of Claim 26, wherein said high stringency condition in step (b) comprises 0.48 M sodium phosphate buffer, 0.1% sodium dodecyl sulfate, 1 mM each of EDTA and EGTA.

31. The method of Claim 26, wherein said high stringency condition in step (b) comprises 0.6 M LiCl, 1% lithium lauryl sulfate, 60 mM lithium succinate and 10 mM each of EDTA and EGTA.

32. The method of Claim 27, wherein the oligonucleotide probe in step (a) comprises a detectable label.

33. The method of Claim 32, wherein the detectable label is an acridinium ester, and wherein step (c) comprises performing luminometry to detect any of said probe:target duplex.

34. The method of Claim 32, wherein said probe composition in step (a) further comprises at least one helper oligonucleotide.

35. The method of Claim 34, wherein said at least one helper oligonucleotide is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:3 and SEQ ID NO:4.

36. A kit for detecting the presence of nucleic acids from any of *C. albicans*, *C. tropicalis, C. dubliniensis, C. viswanathii* and *C. parapsilosis* in a test sample, said kit comprising:

(a) a composition comprising a detectably labeled oligonucleotide probe having the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1; and

(b) at least one helper oligonucleotide.